

J.M.J.

Burgos, Jan. 3, 1975

Dear August,

Just now received the package you sent, on the suggestion of Fr. Aloysius, with the book of Butler's Lives of the Saints. As you both know my taste so well, you can imagine how happy I am in receiving such a book. And you went to the trouble and expense of sending it by airmail. In the future you might send things by boat, since I will have this book I will not be in a hurry to receive others! This book I will keep by my desk at all times as a reference book. Since the calendar of Saints has been changed by Vatican, one only needs to consult the calendar and look up the Saint in the index of this book.

When you see Father next let him know how grateful I am about his having you send me the book. Also tell him that my last two aerogrammes and 6-page letter to him might have sounded somewhat depressing, and that things are not as bad as I sometimes may picture them. When everyone went home for Christmas I felt kind of down. But now I feel just great. In any case I am learning that feelings are biggest enemies when I forget the importance of pure faith. Really, I just love it here. God could never have given me a greater present than Spain. Especially for studying for the priesthood there may not be any better place in the world at the present.

Also came today Father's Christmas greetings with your signatures in it. It was such a joy to receive it. Although you may have forgotten to include the relic of St. Charles Borromeo, do not worry as I have a first-class one that Rose Hansen gave me about three years ago. I appreciate your intention to send it. You are such a thoughtful person. Your bit of news that Charles Mandina wishes to join the M.A.P. is a Christmas present in itself. You are right that he is "so full of kindness". He is a very pious and charitable person and would be the greatest asset to the M.A.P. This is a sign of the blessing of God, as Father would say. Really it does not matter in the least how few people we have. In fact, in a certain sense it is better to start with very few. With a few members things are better organized, especially when the members are of one mind, as we are so fortunate to be. The problem in many congregations nowadays is that the members are divided on essential problems in the religious life. This is most unfortunate, and part of it stems from admitting people who do not even wish to share the same spirit. St. Theresa of Avila firmly believed that it is better to be very selective, even though the congregation has to remain small for a long time. Because if you admit people who are unfitted this ruins the congregation. As Father used to say, "it stops the grace of God". When you think of it, there were only twelve apostles to start with. With just a handful of men who are really committed you can change the entire world. While with hundreds of lukewarm 'religious' you only scandalize the faithful.

Glad to hear that you plan to take English. A few times in your nice letters you omit putting the verb in the past tense when that is sometimes necessary, depending on the meaning of the sentence. Since English is the most universally spoken language it behooves us to use it well, since we are going to take the Gospel to all peoples, huh?

If you are still with Conlan, tell him I'm still wearing the watch he had given me in Fatima, the one he found under the seat of his car. I had to get a new wathh band for it yesterday, but it still

2) runs real well. Tell him thanks a lot. He has kept me on time for things here. Jean is planning to go to LaHorra, the little town of Rafael Cob, for the Feast of the Three Kings. This is a great feast here in Spain and it's the day when the people exchange presents. Father could tell you about it. They have popular plays with three people dressing up like the 'Reyes Magos'. In the department stores, instead of Santa Claus they have the three Kings. They also have fantastically beautiful Bethlehem crib and stable sets, some of them have almost 100 different figures. I've never seen anything like it before. There is one like it in the Cathedral of Lisbon which you may recall, near the door on the left as one enters, is made by a famous artist. /Here in Spain, since taking wine with ones meal is normal and wine production is traditional, many times the seminarians ask me how much wine costs a bottle in the States, also, how much is a glass of it in the restaurant

PRIMER DOBLEZ

Nombre y señas del remitente.
Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur.
Sender's name and address.

Charles Carpenter

Seminario San Jerónimo

Burgos, Spain

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AÉROGRAMME

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4010 Oak

Burbank, California 91505

(EE.UU.)

SI EN ESTA CARTA SE INCLUIERA CUALQUIER OBJETO, SERVIR COMO PAQUETE POR VIA ORDINARIA

SEGUNDO DOBLEZ

3) Perhaps the next time you write you could let me know. Distinguish between real wine and wine in which chemicals are added (cheaper). Also they ask the cost of a bottle of whisky. (Don't be scandalized). Maybe you could just send the wine list from Barone's if it's not too much trouble. / Well, Br. August, these aerogrammes are never long enough to say everything, especially during vacations when I've got so much more time to write. Exams are coming up in February, so until then I'll be breijfer in my letters, necessarily. Extend my best to Chas. Mandina-the wooden cross from Italy he gave me is always on my desk; to Br. Mike; to Kevin. May we all be reunited some day. Give Father all my love, be my envoy of love for me to him. In the Baby Jesus,

Br. Charles